

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02384 031108Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-11 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 /057 W

----- 046777

P R 031015Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2284

INFO AMEMBASY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 2384

DEPARTMENT PASS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIA-LIBYA CONFLICT: TRADE UNION ROLE

REF: TUNIS 1746, TUNIS 1833, TUNIS 2192, STATE 78514, FREETOWN 983

1. EXPULSIONS SINCE MARCH 1 OF TUNISIAN WORKERS FROM LIBYA NOW APPROACHING 9,000, ROUGHLY 20 PCNT OF TUNISIANS RESIDENT IN LIBYA. GOT-CONTROLLED MEDIA CONTINUE TO REPORT DAILY ON EXPULSIONS, ALTHOUGH EMPHASIS ON SUPPOSED VIOLATION BY LARG OFLBILATERAL WORKER EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS HAS BEEN TONED DOWN AND ALLEGATIONS OF GROSS PHYSICAL MISTREATMENT OF TUNISIANS HAVE ALL BUT DISAPPEARED. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT RECENT EXPULSIONS, UNLIKE LARGE NUMBER OF THOSE IN EARLY-MARCH, INVOLVE TUNISIANS HOLDING VALID GOT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. IT NOT RPT NOT UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT MAJORITY OF CURRENT DEPORTEES LACK VALID LIBYAN WORK PERMITS.

2. GOT NOW PLACING NEWS EMPHASIS ON EFFORTS TO REINTEGRATE RETURNEDWORKERS INTO LOCAL ECONOMY. WHILE TUNISIAN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 02384 031108Z

ECONOMY PLAGUED WITH CHRONIC UNEMPLOYMENT IN RANGE OF

10 TO 15 PCNT, GOT HAS REGULARLY NOTED LACK OF WORKDERS IN CERTAIN CATEGORIES SUCH AS AGRICULTURAL LABOR AND CONSTRUCTION WORK. BOTH PRESS REPORTS AND OUR PRIVMTE CONVERSATIONS WITH RESPONSIBLE GOT OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT RETURNED WORKDERS WHO ARE GETTING JOBS ARE PLACED IN THESE TWO, RELATIVELY UNATTRACTIVE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

3. GENERAL UNION OF TUNISIAN WORKERS (UGTT) HAS JOINED GOT ANTI-LIBYA CAMPAIGN IN MEDIA. AS REPORTED IN TUNIS 1833, UGTT DENOUNCED EXPULSIONS TO ARAB TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION AS A "VIOLATION OF HUMAN DIGNITY." UGTT SECRETARY GENERAL HABIB ACHOUR TOLD US IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION THAT HE TAKES LIBYAN EXPULSIONS AS SERIOUS AFFRONT TO TUNISIAN WORKERS AND REGARDS COLONEL QADHAFI AS AN ENEMY OF FREE TRADE UNIONISM IN GENERAL. AS DO MANY TUNISIANS, HOWEVER, ACHOUR LOOKS ON QADHAFI AS "CRAZY". AND NOT A SERIOUS THREAT TO TUNISIAN STABILITY. IN HUMOROUS SIDELIGHT, QADHAFI REPORTEDLY DECLARED IN SPEECH THAT HERKENNAH ISLANDS, ACHOUR'S HOME, BELONG TO LIBYA AND THAT THEY WOULD BE SZIZED. PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA JOKED IN RECENT SPEECH THAT QADHAFI WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS THAT CLAIM WITH HABIB ACHOUR.

3. UGTT REFUSAL TO ATTEND OATUU MEETING IN TRIPOLI IS A NATURAL TUNISIAN REACTION AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ACHOUR'S MIND WILL BE CHANGED. AFTER THE ABOORTIVE LIBYAN ASSASSINATIONPLOT AGAINST PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA, THE EXPULSION AND MISTREATMENT OF TUNISIAN WORKERS, AND THE ABUSIVE PROPAGANDA DIRECTED AGAINST TUNISIA BY LARG IN RECENT WEEKS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ANY TUNISIAN TO ATTEND A LARG HOSTED MEETING IN TRIPOLI.

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UGTT TELEGRAM DATED MARCH 24 SENT TO "ALL AFRICAN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS: "QUOTE UGTT EXECUTIVE BUREAU, HAVING EXAMINED CRIMINAL ACTION OF LIBYAN REGIME ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING DISCOVERY OF SEVERAL IGNOBLE PLOTS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A CLIMATE OF TERROR, KIDNAPPINGS AND ASSASSINATIONS IN SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES THEREBY IGNORING ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TUNIS 02384 031108Z

RELATIONS, DECIDES THAT TUNISIA WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY CONGRESS IN LIBYA. UGTT URGENTLY ASKS YOU TO INTERVENE WITH OATUU FOR PURE AND SIMPLE CANCELLATION OF HOLDING OF THIS CONGRESS IN TRIPOLI. WE ARE DISPOSED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN ANY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY. PLEASE ADVISE. FRATERNAL GREETINGS. HABIB ACHOUR, SECRETARY GENERAL OF UGTT. END QUOTE.

IDENTICAL MESSAGE WAS SENT TO J.D. AKUMU, OATUU SECRETARY GENERAL, IN ACCRA WITH NOTIFICATION THAT UGTT SECRETARY FOR TRADE UNION EDUCATION KHLIFA ABID WOULD PROVIDE AKUMU WITH FULLER DETAILS. ABID LEFT TUNIS APRIS 2 FOR VISIT TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO EXPLAIN UGTT ACTION. AS OF APRIL 3, UGTT HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY REPLAIES

5. UGTT EXECUTIVE BUREAU ALSO ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON MARCH 24 CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH LIBYA. IN ADDITION TO REFERENCES TO LIBYAN PLOTS AND OTHER DESTRUCTIVE ACTIONS, THE UGTT NOTED THE "MASSIVE AND ARBITRARY EXPULSIONS" OF TUNISIAN WORKERS AND THEIR BAD TREATMENT BY LIBYAN AUTHORITIES AND ANNOUNCED THAT TUNISIA WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE TRIPOLI CONGRESS OF THE OATUU.

6. RE PARA 3, STATE REFTTEL, LARG WAS ALREADY EXPELLING TUNISIAN WORKERS BEFORE THE ALEXANDRIA CONFERENCE BEGAN MARCH 6, AND STORY BROKE AS MAJOR NEWS ITEM HERE MARCH 10.
KING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, FOREIGN WORKERS, THREATS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TUNIS02384
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760126-0250
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760499/aaaadhjt.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TUNIS 1746, 76 TUNIS 1833, 76 TUNIS 2192, 76 STATE 78514, 76 FREETOWN 983
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TUNISIA-LIBYA CONFLICT: TRADE UNION ROLE
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006